The stocks of urea during 1990-91 were on the high side because of poor offtake in previous years on account of unfavourable monsoon. Stocks of NPK/DAP at the end of March each year are generally high because of the lean selling period from January onwards. However, the stocks at the end of 1992-93 were higher than normal because of sharp increase in prices due to decontrol of phosphatic fertilizers and fall in offtake.

(d) IFFCO is encouraging competitive selling among co-operative societies and institutional agencies through which the entire production of IFFCO is channelised, and imparting education to farmers regarding adequate and balanced use of all fertilizers.

Disinvestment in Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd.

3072. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount realised from disinvestments in shares of Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd. (RCF) during 1991-92 and during 1992-93 ;

(b) the reasons for disinvestments of shares of the company ; and

(c) whether any proposal is under Government's consideration for disinvestments of shares during 1993-94 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) A total amount of Rs. 61,09,49,801 has been realised from disinvestment of shares of Rashriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd. (RCF) during the years 1991-92 and 1992-93.

(b) Government has disinvested the shares of public sector undertakings, including RCF, in order to raise non-inflationary resources keeping in view the marketability of the shares, strategic importance of the enterprises and scope for disinvestment, as also the target for mobilising resources.

(c) No decision has yet been taken by the Government about the undertakings whose shares are to be disinvested during 1993-94.

Investment by India in the proposed fertilizer project in Oman

3073. SHRI SHIVAJIRAO GIRIDHAR PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India is investing $ 60 million in the proposed fertilizer project to be set up in Oman ;

(b) if so, what is the cost of the project and what is expected to be debt-equity ratio ;

(c) whether India's share fixed in the equity to be financed by India and Oman in the said project ; and

(d) what method for pricing the end product has been decided ; viz., international prices or cost plus price ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (d) The Government of India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Sultanate of Oman, envisaging early finalisation of broad technical parameters and financial viability of the proposed gas-based urea project to be set up in Oman. Details like project cost, equity base, pricing etc., will be known only after the completion of the exercises as envisaged in the MOU.

Re-organisation of Sindri Unit of Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited

3074. SHRI GAYA SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any planning to re-organise Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited or to run the Sindri Unit as a new separate company ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Sindri Unit of the FCI Ltd. is having similar technology as in National Fertilizer Limited ; and

(c) if so, whether there is any planning to merge Sindri Unit in National Fertilizer Limited ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (c) The Sindri Unit of Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd., (FCI) is using technology similar to that of Bhatinda, Nangal and Panipat units of National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) for production of urea. FCI has been declared a sick company by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985. Any final decision regarding reorganisation of FCI would depend upon the outcome of the BIFR proceedings.

Prices of formulations based on Ranitidine

3075. SHRI ABDUL SAMAD SIDDIQUI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) when were the prices of formulations based on bulk drug Ranitidine were fixed and what is the price of bulk drug on which formulation prices are based at present :